

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 ACDA-10 /080 W
-----001525 221437Z /53

P R 221329Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8589
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
CINCEUR
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS ANKARA 6255

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: MILI, MPOL, TU
SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS COMMENTS ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

REF: ANKARA 6227 (DTG 191425Z) (NOTAL)

1. OVER THE WEEK-END, TURKISH PRESS MAINTAINED ITS
INTEREST IN IMPENDING MILITARY COMMAND CHANGES (REFTEL).
MOST PAPERS AUGUST 20 HIGHLIGHTED MEETING OF PRIMIN DEMIREL
WITH PRESIDENT KORUTURK AUGUST 19. AFTERWARD, DEMIREL TOLD
PRESS THAT APPOINTMENT OF GROUND FORCES (ARMY) COMMANDER HAS NOT
YET BEEN SETTLED BUT HE REJECTED PUBLIC AND PRESS SPECULATION
THAT POLITICAL PREFERENCE IS A DETERMINANT IN APPOINTMENT
OF SERVICE COMMANDERS. ASSERTING THAT "IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ARGUE
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OVER COMMANDER ASSIGNMENTS", DEMIREL SIAD "THERE IS NO
POINT IN EXAGGERATING THE MATTER." HE ALSO ACCUSED REPUB-
LICAN PEOPLES PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN ECEVIT OF IRRESPONSIBILITY
IN ATTEMPTING TO TELL THE PRESIDENT WHAT TO DO ABOUT MILITARY
COMMANDER ASSIGNMENTS (PARA 6 REFTEL).

2. DESPITE PRIMIN DEMIREL'S ATTEMPT TO PUT THE LID ON

SPECULATION CONCERNING COMMAND CHANGES, LEFTIST DAILY "CUMHURIYET" AUGUST 21 SIAD THAT APPOINTMENT OF GROUND FORCES COMMANDER HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER, BUT THAT APPOINTMENT OF AEGEAN ARMY COMMANDER GENERAL KENAN EVEREN TO THIS POST IS EXPECTED. "CUMHURIYET" ALSO QUOTED TURKISH GENERAL STAFF (TGS) SOURCES AS SAYING THAT A FOUR-STAR GENERAL WHO HAS NOT SERVED AS COMMANDER OF A NUMBERED ARMY CANNOT BE PROMOTED TO GROUND FORCES COMMANDER, THEREBY IMPLICITLY ELIMINATING FROM CONTENTION GENERAL NURETTIN ERSIN , SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL.

3. ON NATO AFFAIRS, CONSERVATIVE "TERCUMAN" AUGUST 20 REPORTED THAT MAJOR GENERAL SINCLAIR L MELNER HAS BEEN NOMINATED TO REPLACE MAJOR GENERAL JAMES B VAUGHT AS CHIEF-OF-STAFF, LANDSOURTHEAST. MODERATE DAILY "MILLIYET" ON AUGUST 20, IN COLUMN BY ALI GEVGILILI, SAID THAT GREECE HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONSIDERED MORE OF AN ALLY BY THE US BECAUSE OF ITS TRADITIONAL WESTERN ORIENTATION AND ITS "CONCRETE PLACE IN CONTEMPORARY CAPITALISM", WHEREAS TURKEY HAS INHERITED THE TRADITIONS OF THE EASTERN ISLAMIC WORLD. FOR THIS REASON, GEVGILILI OPINED, TURKEY IS IN EFFECT PARALYZED IN THE NATO ALLIANCE BECAUSE OF US ARMS TRANSFER LIMITATIONS, WHILE GREECE IS TOLERATED AS AN ALLY ALTHOUGH IT HAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE NATO INTEGRATED COMMAND STRUCTURE. GEVGILILI CONTINUED THAT TURKEY IS NOW, FOR THE UNCLASSIFIED

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FIRST TIME, ACTIVELY CONSIDERING WHETHER IT IS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN A LARGE STANDING ARMY TO "SERVE THE INTEREST OF TIES WITH THE WEST" AND WHETHER THERE ARE OTHER ALTERNATIVES. ALSO, GEVGILILI PREDICTED THAT THE US-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT "WILL REMAIN IN SUSPENSION FOR TACTICAL REASONS" BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN LINKED TO THE GREEK DCA. FINALLY, GEVGILILI OBSERVED THAT GREECE MAY OVER THE LONG RUN BE SUSTAINED BECUASE OF ITS "HISTORIC ORGANIC TIES WITH THE WEST", WHILE THE ONLY DYNAMIC WHICH CAN SUSTAIN TURKEY WILL BE THE "MULIT-DIMENSIONAL RELATIONS OF DETENTE." SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, REORGANIZATIONS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770302-0878
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770839/aaaabgrc.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 477efa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ANKARA 6227
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1533214
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH PRESS COMMENTS ON MILITARY AFFAIRS
TAGS: MILI, MPOL, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/477efa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009